

## Message Text

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ACTION XMB-04

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 EB-07 TRSE-00 INR-07 AID-05 /032 W

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R 231100Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGUI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7660

INFO AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, EFIN, CT

SUBJECT: EX-IM BANK LOAN ARREARAGES

REF: A. STATE 215253 B. BANGUI 1577

1. PRIME MINISTER PATASSE, WHO IS ALSO MINISTER FOR POSTS AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS, ASKED TO SEE ME SEPTEMBER 22 TO DISCUSS CURRENT EX-IM BANK LOAN ARREARAGES. HE INDICATED THAT HE WAS WELL INFORMED ON THE DETAILS OF PROBLEM AND SAID THAT GOCAR WAS ANXIOUS TO RESOLVE THIS ISSUE IN THE NEAR FUTURE. GOCAR WISHED TO DEVELOP MOST MODERN POSSIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES AND TO SEE GTE COMPLETE EXISTING PROJECT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. IN THIS REGARD THE GOVERNMENT RECOGNIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF COMING TO GRIPS WITH ARREARAGES QUESTION. HE SAID GOVERNMENT FACED VARIOUS FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES AND WOULD CONSEQUENTLY NEED TO RESCHEDULE THE EXISTING DEBT. WITH THIS END IN VIEW GOCAR HOPES EX-IM COULD SEND DELEGATION TO BANGUI IN NEAR FUTURE TO NEGOTIATE REVISED PAYMENT SCHEDULE. HE SUGGESTED FIRST TWO WEEKS OF OCTOBER AS SUITABLE FROM GOCAR'S POINT OF VIEW. IN ANY EVENT GOCAR NEEDED TO RESOLVE PROBLEM BEFORE IT LAUNCHED ITS NEXT BUDGET CYCLE IN EARLY DECEMBER.

2. IN RESPONSE I TOLD MINISTER I WOULD PASS HIS REQUEST TO APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS IN WASHINGTON. USG WOULD WELCOME GOCAR'S DESIRE TO NEGOTIATE SOLUTION. EXIM, I WAS CONFIDENT, WOULD BE WILLING TO CONSIDER A REALISTIC REVISED PAYMENT SCHEDULE.

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HOWEVER, I DID NOT KNOW WHEN A NEGOTIATING TEAM MIGHT ARRIVE

AND WOULD LET HIM KNOW AS SOON AS I HAD WORD. I COMMENTED PARENTHETICALLY THAT IT WAS MOST IMPORTANT TO FIND AN AMICABLE SOLUTION, SINCE, AS THE PRIME MINISTER WAS AWARE, THE POSSIBILITY OF FUTURE EX-IM INVOLVEMENT IN THE CAR DEPENDED ON SUCH A SOLUTION.

3. COMMENT: GOCAR NOW SEEMS ACTIVELY CONCERNED TO NEGOTIATE OUTSTANDING ECONOMIC ISSUES. WILLINGNESS OF GOCAR TO NEGOTIATE IN THIS CASE IS PROBABLY THE RESULT OF EX-IM'S FIRMNESS WITH BOKASSA IN REFUSING GUARANTEE FOR LEASE PURCHASE OF AIRCRAFT. IT ALSO PROBABLY REFLECTS GROWING AWARENESS THAT ITS EXPECTATIONS OF FUTURE USG ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE MAY BE AFFECTED BY PERSISTENCE OF ECONOMIC ISSUES BETWEEN OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS. UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES IT WOULD BE HIGHLY DESIRABLE IF EX-IM COULD SEND ONE (OR MORE) OF ITS OFFICERS TO BANGUI TO TAKE UP PRIME MINISTER'S OFFER. AS INDICATED REF B ONLY DISCUSSIONS HERE ARE LIKELY TO YIELD RESULTS. QUANTON

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** BUDGETS, LOANS, GOVERNMENT DEBTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 23 SEP 1976  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Disposition Reason:**  
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